

AMENDMENT(S) TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 10, with the following rewritten paragraph:

According to the invention, the flexible pipe 1 includes a layer intended to allow the gases diffusing through the pressure sheath 2 to drain away into the internal annulus 30.

Advantageously, this layer is placed between the pressure sheath 2 and the anti-collapse sheath 4 so as to drain away the diffusion gases within the internal annulus 30. This layer is formed from the short-pitch winding of at least one elongate element 12, 14, 18, 19 that has transverse draining spaces or recesses 15 (see Fig. 1) that allow the gas to drain away in a direction transverse to the turn that it forms in the winding. The recesses are positioned along the elongate element so as to provide a continuous draining path between the successive turns once the winding has been carried out.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

As the embodiment in figure 3 illustrates, and as also seen in the embodiment in Fig. 1, the profile of the elongate element has transverse spaces or slots 15 regularly distributed longitudinally along the elongate element so that, once the winding has been carried out, when these spaces are partly contiguous in the successive turns forming the layer in question, channels are formed that allow drainage in an approximately longitudinal direction F within the layer. These channels allow the gas to flow transversely through the turns that the elongate element forms once wound. Thus, contrary to the various solutions proposed in the abovementioned prior art, the gas is not drained along the elongate element 12 in the gaps or in the longitudinal slots positioned along said element, but is drained in a direction F approximately transverse to the winding. Thus, thanks to the invention, it becomes possible for effective drainage of the gas to take place within the internal annulus 30 in a layer of the pipe whose element is wound in a short pitch. It is thus possible to drain within a functional layer such as, for example, the hoop 13, that is to say within a layer that

provides mechanical assistance to the resistance of the structure of the flexible pipe to the service or installation stresses that it is intended to withstand.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 27, with the following rewritten paragraph:

According to the invention, the layer wound with a short pitch, the elongate element of which has the transverse draining spaces for draining away the gas, may consist either of the pressure-resistant armor 3 or of the hoop 13, as in Fig. 1, or even optionally of a separate complementary layer of the pressure vault that is located in the internal annulus 30.